

~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~

802.k. 26

THE  
NATURE  
OF A  
QUARANTINE.  
WITH  
IMPORTANT REMARKS  
ON

The *East-India* Company's Affairs.

~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~

[ Price Eighteen-pence. ]

IN A U R A

U R A U R A

U R A U R A

U R A U R A

U R A U R A

U R A U R A

U R A U R A

U R A U R A

Gal 5 W 6

THE  
NATURE  
OF A  
QUARANTINE,

As it is Performed

In *ITALY*;

To guard against

THAT VERY ALARMING  
AND  
DREADFUL CONTAGIOUS DISTEMPER,  
COMMONLY CALLED

The PLAGUE.

WITH  
IMPORTANT REMARKS  
ON THE

Necessity of laying open the Trade to the  
*EAST INDIES*;

To enable the Government (by an Increase of  
Revenue arising from an Extension of Commerce)  
to take off the Taxes which burthen the Nation.  
The only *true Means* of providing a Relief for  
the general Distress.

---

L O N D O N :

Printed for J. WILLIAMS, at No. 38. next the  
Mitre Tavern, Fleet-Street. MDCCLXVII.

30

## Advertisement.

**T**HIS Pamphlet, by shewing the nature of a Quarantine proves the great *necessity* of such an establishment in this great trading nation, according to the *strict* rules of the Italians. And as a further proof of the *necessity*, it is sufficient to remember that near 69,000 lives were lost in London, by that dreadful distemper, about a Century ago.

The DEDICATION contains some further important Remarks on State Affairs; whereby the Author endeavours to shew, that there is an absolute necessity for laying open the trade to the East Indies; that all fitting encouragement may be given to Manufactures and Trade: which, he thinks are the only *true* means for taking off Taxes; to provide a relief for the general Distress.



To His GRACE

The DUKE of Newcastle.



MY LORD DUKE,

**T**HOSE truly noble and God-like Sentiments that characterized the immortal FABRICIUS, (which I have mentioned in another Pamphlet as an Example for Mr. *Townshend*) are the hereditary *Virtues* of the illustrious *Pelham* Family, of which Your GRACE is the greatest Ornament.

A true Friend to King and Country, foregoing all *personal* Advantages; a Lover, and Encourager of *Merit*, for the Good of Mankind; are the distinguishing Characteristics of His Grace of *Newcastle*; whose Greatness of Mind, Goodness of Heart, and uncommon *disinterested* Zeal for his King and

A

Country,

Country, will be handed down to the latest Times, for the Example of future Ages.

The present *critical* Situation of *Great Britain*, in regard both to her Political Conduct and the State of her Finances, leads us naturally to look back to the Times past; where we find, with *eager pleasure*, the never-to-be-forgotten Endeavours of the *Pelham* Family, for the firm Establishment on the *British* Throne of the *illustrious and sacred* Family of HANOVER. A most happy Event! which can never be mentioned without the most respectful and grateful Remembrance of Your GRACE; who has given so many noble Proofs of your Readiness to promote the Happiness of his Majesty's Family and Dominions.

That the Situation of our State Affairs are truly *critical*, and become more so every Day, nobody will dispute. Great Want of Money to provide for an *immense* Debt; *few* Resources; and *fewer* disinterested *Pelhams* to devote themselves to the Service of their Country, in order to find out a Remedy for the general Distress; *Trade* monopolized, and what is intended for *All*, is confined to *Few*; *Manufactures* (the Spring of all our Industry, and principal Cause of our Benefits) without *due* Encouragement; greatly distress the industrious, who groan under the insupportable Burthen of numerous heavy Taxes, ill-proportioned

to the Situation of Manufactures and Trade ; and without any Hopes of Relief : All these Things make a melancholy Figure, very alarming, and greatly to be dreaded !

It is universally acknowledged, My Lord, and with the greatest Gratitude, that Your GRACE has done infinite *Good* to *Great Britain* : Yet, more is expected. A Man *truely* Great should never cease to do good to his Country, either by his Actions or through his Influence, while he has Existence. Where much is given by Divine Providence, much is expected. The unceasing Expectation of your Country, tho' *apparently* unreasonable, is very just ; being the great *Tribute* of your distinguished Greatness : And your innate Goodness cannot, I am sure, object to a Compliance with what is so suitable to your Sentiments, and agreeable to all the Actions of your Life.

*Abilities* and *Honesty* are what the Nation stands most in need of : *Honesty* in particular ; by which I mean the noble *Disinterestedness* of a *Pelham*, or a *Fabricius*. Which of the two is the brightest Example of *true* Patriotism, abler Judges shall determine.

*Fabricius*, whose Circumstances were ill-proportioned to his Dignity, nobly refused the princely Offers of King *Pyrrhus* to abuse the Confidence reposed in him, and betray his

his Country. *Pelham*, equally favoured with the Confidence of his Country, in Times of greater Temptation, not only as nobly refused to *gratify his own Purposes*, but also, with an unexampled Greatness of Mind, expended a Princely Fortune towards promoting the Happiness of his King and Country.

It is greatly to be lamented, My Lord, that the *Bulk* of the *English* should run away, like a rapid Current, with Notions, that *all* the Understanding, *all* the Virtues, are confined to so small a Compass as one *popular* Man. It is a Judgement highly satyrical which they pass upon themselves with the rest of the Nation; to the great Amusement of sensible Foreigners, and to the Advantage of our natural Enemies, who reap no inconsiderable Benefit by such an Infatuation: Because, a Monopoly of Understanding and Virtues naturally occasions a Disunion among the first Class, which takes their Attention from the Business of the State. Thanks to God the Judgement is as wrong as it is absurd; for there are many who are *equal* in regard to *real* Abilities, and superior with respect to *Principle*. I mean solid and *useful* Abilities, and not rhetorical Flourishes of the Ciceronian Art: And by Principle I mean Disinterestedness; of which Your Grace's Conduct is a truly noble Instance.

As



As to Abilities, they are not so very difficult to be met with in this populous Nation; but we know of few, very few indeed, who are ready to forego all *personal* Advantages, and devote themselves and their Labours to the Service of their King and Country, in Imitation of the *Pelbams* and *Fabricius*.

The *national Debt* is terrible to think of: Being full of dreadful and alarming Consequences, in regard to the Shifts we must make, and the Inconveniences we must labour under, to raise Money; as well as the Effect it must naturally have upon our State, with respect to other Nations, by weakening the Energy of Government.

The Principal immense; the Interest great; Taxes raised in Consequence thereof at a Time that Manufactures and Trade are neglected, become unbearable; and are such a Concurrence of grievous Circumstances as are enough to ruin a manufacturing and trading Nation, whose only Resources are the Fruits of Industry, proceeding from those very Manufactures and Trade.

In Time of universal Tranquillity abroad, we are at war within ourselves by a Difference of Principle in those who should set bright Examples of Good-fellowship and upright Conduct; Taxes, which in Time of War were laid upon Taxes, are continued in Time of Peace, to the Distress of  
the

the industrious Artificer, who, in Proportion as the national Debt increafes, and another expenfive War approaches, has the lefs Proſpect of Relief.

To remedy this *public* Calamity, this *general* Diſtreſs, and *unbearable* Evil, the conſciencious Tools of the Government have modeſtly (as the laſt Remedy) propoſed to raiſe Money by obliging the Eaſt India Company to pay the exhorbitant annual Sum of *One Million* Sterling. And by ſeizing upon the Property of Individuals, they propoſe to provide for the *Debt* of the Nation. But Your Grace, who is the *Patron* of Liberty (conſtitutional Liberty) and Property, will, I am ſure, in the Character of Champion of our moſt excellent Conſtitution, oppoſe, with all your Intereſt, a Scheme ſo highly daring and prejudicial to his Maſteſty's Subjects *in general*; ſo contrary to the Meaning of our Laws, and to the mild Government, for which our moſt excellent *Sovereign* is juſtly admired, and univerſally beloved.

To talk of removing Taxes without *fiſt* finding ſomething adequate to the Money mortgaged, is very abſurd. No Taxes can, with Prudence, be *taken off*, while the Debt of the Nation *increaſes*. It may be taken from one thing and laid upon another; but that would be doing little towards relieving the general Diſtreſs. It is no more  
than

than robbing of Peter to pay Paul. While the Debt increases, the Taxes must consequently increase to provide for it; especially, so long as *Trade and Manufactures are discouraged*, and the public Revenue suffered thereby to *decrease*. Were they to thrive and the Revenue to increase, then indeed Taxes might be taken off *gradually*, in proportion to that Increase of Income. Provided, however, the Treasure of the Nation is managed with proper Oeconomy, by disinterested, not *venal* Officers of the State. Therefore, those who talk about taking off Taxes while the Government is *distressed for Money* to satisfy her Creditors, mean to *delude* the People. For, it is manifest that, as the *Fountain* and only true *Resource* of Advantages to this manufacturing and trading Nation is *Commerce*, nothing great can be done for the Interest of Subject and State, towards paying off the *national Debt*, and taking off Taxes, but what will necessarily result from a due Encouragement of Trade; by abolishing all Monopolies, and laying open the Trade to the East Indies, in particular.

This, my Lord, is the only *true* and *safe* Method for raising of Money to enrich Subject and State; whereby the Government will be enabled to discharge the national Debt gradually, and take off the burthensome Taxes imposed upon the Public.

Public. The first of which ought to be those that most affect Industry.

It is self-evident that all other Measures of a different Tendency, which are made to serve a present *Turn* only, will be *fruitless* Attempts. For nothing can be more manifest and certain, than this great Truth; that so long as Trade is neglected, the public Revenue must *decrease*; the national Debt *increase*; and the Taxes to provide for the Necessities of the State, become more numerous and burthensome. And if another War should happen, the Lord only knows how Money will be raised to provide for all Things necessary for the Credit and Defence of the Nation.

I have endeavoured, in two Pamphlets, to shew the Necessity for laying open the Trade to the East Indies, and abolishing all Monopolies; in order to give greater Encouragement to Manufactures, and extend Commerce to such a Degree as to make the Nation flourish by the natural Consequences. For these are the only *true* Means of *en-*creasing the public Revenue so considerably as to provide gradually for the vast Debt of the Nation, to enable the Government to take off the numerous burthensome Taxes imposed upon the Public, which greatly oppress the industrious, and occasion that Dissatisfaction which is universally complained of. But though it is self-evident,  
My



My Lord, that this Plan is calculated for the Good of the whole Nation in general, that is, both Subject and State; and that *Monies* can only be raised (to answer the Purposes of the Government, in the room of those mortgaged for Taxes, *proposed to be taken off* to relieve the industrious Artificer) by means of the Advantages of an universal and well-conducted Trade; yet, some officious Tools of the Government, whose Views are generally so very narrow as to be confined to the present Time only, let the future Consequences be what they will, have proposed to evade this beneficial Scheme, by exacting, I may say by extorting, from the East India Company of Merchants the exorbitant Sum of *One Million Sterling per Annum*, as a Consideration for not laying open the Trade to the East Indies.

To frustrate this alarming Design, so very unconstitutional in regard to the Attack made on the *Property* of the Subject; and so pernicious with respect to the Injury which such a Measure must necessarily occasion to the Interests both of the Subjects in general, and the Government itself, (by bringing smaller Profits to the former, and a smaller Revenue to the latter) I was induced to write a second Pamphlet to oppose so bold a Proposal; which by requiring, under a false Pretence, the Property of a

B

Body,

Body, or Set of Men, is a *barefaced* Attack upon every Individual. For by such a Measure the Intention of those Laws, which were judiciously made for the Security of the Subject's *Property*, would be *destroyed*, and the Constitution itself, of consequence, *endangered* by such an unprecedented and publick Attack; which, should it take Place, will give the Public to understand how little they can depend upon the Protection of their Laws whenever *State Necessity* requires their *Property*, and time-serving Ministers have *Courage* to propose such Measures.

As my Aim is to make Proper and sufficient Provision for the great Debt of the Nation, and thereby (for it cannot be done before) provide, in a rational Manner, for the *Taxes*, which most immediately affect Industry, and by Means best adapted to the Nature of our Situation and Affairs; *the Encouragement of Manufactures, Navigation, and an universal Commerce*: I have made frequent Mention of those main Objects; which may induce some People to think that I have been guilty of too great a Repetition; but I have no Doubt of their finding it quite necessary when they consider the great Importance of the Subject Matter of my Discourse, and that the Heads cannot be too frequently referred to.

If there should appear some Impropriety in writing for and against the East India Company

Company as I have done, I answer; that by shewing, in my first Pamphlet, the Necessity there is for abolishing all Monopolies of Commerce, and laying open the Trade to the East Indies *in particular*, I argued against the Company as a Monopoly, which is the Bane of Trade, and consequently a very great Injustice to the Subjects *in general* of this great trading and manufacturing Nation. In the other I have argued for the united Merchants, not as a Company or Monopoly prejudicial to the *common* Interest, but as British Subjects; entitled to a free and uninterrupted Enjoyment of their Property, equally with the rest of his Majesty's Subjects. Whereby I discover a truly honest Principle, of giving to every one their due, so far as it is conducive to the Interest of the *whole*. My Intention being to do to *All* that impartial Justice which they are entitled to in *common*, without respect of Persons. Not considering any Individuals, or Body of Men distinctly, but in a general Light as so many necessary and inseperable Members of one great Body; which, they being under an absolute Necessity of supporting and strengthening for their own Sakes, make one common Interest, or general Good. This is my Principle. For I am neither a Tool of Government, nor an Advocate for any Set of Men; but an Assertor of the

Rights and Interest of my Country in general.

YOUR GRACE will see a wide Difference between the Propriety of depriving the Company of their *Property* under the Pretence and imaginary Title of a national Demand, which has neither Legality nor Equity to support it; and the taking from them their *territorial Acquisitions*; not for the mere *Convenience* of the Government, (which would be setting a Precedent fatal to the Constitution of a free State; as it might reasonably be supposed that, under Pretence of such *State Convenience*, the Property of the Subject might be too frequently attacked;) but for the real Advantage of the whole Community, who have, in *common*, a just Right and Title to the Benefits of an open and extensive Trade.

There is the greater Equity in the last Measure; because, should the Trade to the East Indies be made free to all his Majesty's Subjects, (either in Consequence of their natural Right and Title in common to an open Trade; or because the Measure would be greatly for the Advantage of the Nation; or both :) the Acquisitions of Territory, now belonging to the United Company of Merchants trading to the East Indies could not, with Propriety, continue any longer in the Possession, and under the Management of the Company.

Hence



Hence it follows very evidently, that it is more reasonable and fit, both from the Nature and Propriety of the Measure with respect to the Constitution of the Nation, and in regard to the common Interest, both of Subject and State; that the Trade to the East Indies should be laid open to *All*, and that, in Consequence thereof, the territorial Acquisitions there should become the Property of the British Nation; to be applied to the *real* Uses and Purposes of the State; than that the Company should be obliged to pay *One Million* Sterling every Year for a Continuation of their Charter. For though the Company might rather chuse to pay *One Million* yearly, than lose a greater *territorial Revenue, and the vast Profits of an extended Trade*, which they now monopolize by their Charter; yet, the Measure ought not to take place, for the Sake of the rest, and greater Part of his Majesty's Subjects, who would be greatly injured by it; by being deprived of their equal Right and Title to the Advantages of a free Trade to the East Indies; and his Majesty of that *considerable Increase of Revenue*, which would be the natural Consequence of an open and universal free Trade. For, notwithstanding the Advantages which I propose both for Subject and State, by an *Extension of Commerce*, are apparently more distant, and may, perhaps, be thought more uncertain than

than the annual Payment of *One Million*, by the Company ; yet, they certainly are of considerable more Consequence than that Sum ; and, in my Opinion, full as certain, and to be depended upon. The Truth of this must be very clear to every Person who is acquainted with Trade, and knows the many happy *Effects* which must necessarily result from the great *Cause* and main *Object*, a due *Encouragement of Trade and Manufacture* in a commercial Nation.

The Advantages which, as the natural and immediate Consequence, must result from an open and free Trade to the East Indies are *many* and *great* : the *Obstacles* in bringing it happily about, are only *two* that are very material.

*One* is the apparent Injustice of depriving the Company of their territorial Property without paying a valuable Consideration for it ; and taking from them a Charter which they have purchased. But these Difficulties are *removed*, by the Measure being taken out of *Justice* to, and for the *Good of the whole* Nation.

The second and greater *Obstacle* is, the fatal Tendency which an open Trade to the East Indies might have in regard to the *Independence* of the Americans. For, their Situation would enable them to reap very considerable Advantages from the East India Trade ; greatly to the Prejudice of Great Britain,

Britain, in regard both to the Trade of the Mother Country, and their being enabled, by the Means of a great and flourishing Trade, to shake off entirely a Dependence which, from their resolute Determinations, it is self-evident they are desirous to get rid of. This, my Lord, is the natural Consequence of late Measures; for which we may thank those *false* Friends who so strenuously solicited for, and were the Means of bringing about a Repeal of the Stamp Act. A fatal Blow to Authority! When a Disease is neglected, it often dilates itself to such a Degree as to be past the Art of Man to apply a proper Remedy to eradicate the Infection. So, when *undue* Measures are taken, or the *proper* ones neglected, the bad Consequences spread, and become so alarming and dangerous as to be often past a Remedy. I wish, My Lord, this may not be the Case in regard to the Americans, but is greatly to be apprehended: Because, the whole Continent of North America (a small Part only excepted) seems to have imbibed the same undutiful and disobedient Sentiments of Independence. For, even in the *new acquired* Country of Canada, they talk of establishing an Assembly, and following the Example of their Neighbours.

It is greatly to be lamented, My Lord, that a Set of People, made up chiefly of  
*Adven-*

*Adventurers*, and the *Refuse* of the three Kingdoms, should be disobedient to, and even dare to oppose the legal Authority of that State to which they owe every temporal Blessing which they now enjoy! But so it happens; and as Things are come to such a critical Pass, nothing but able and *honest* Ministers (so disinterested as to prefer their Country's Welfare to their own particular Interest) with timely and spirited Measures, can prevent the dangerous Consequences.

In the mean Time, this great *Objection* started against laying open the Trade to the East Indies, by favouring the Americans to the Prejudice of the Mother Country, is a Thought so very interesting to Great Britain, that it requires Abilities of the first Class to determine, whether it would not be more conducive to the Tranquillity and Happiness of Great Britain to confine that Trade to a Company as it now is, on that very Account *only*. For, if it was to be laid open to Great Britain, and Ireland only, the excluding of the Americans from the Advantages due to Subjects in common, would make bad worse; as that Discouragement would justify their Disobedience, and make them still more anxious to shake off entirely their Dependence on the Mother Country; and when Things are brought to that melancholy



choly Pass, they will probably take by Force that which is not granted them by fewer in common with the rest of his Majesty's Subjects. To the great Disgrace and Prejudice of Great Britain!

To prevent this happening, let it be the Care of whom it more immediately concerns from their Employments and the Dignity they bear in the State, to think seriously of the Cause, early enough to apply a proper and effectual Remedy. The compassing of *this* will gain them the Affections and Applauses of that Public, whose *Power* and *Gratitude* is so great as to make even a *Massaniello* considerable.

Your GRACE, who has always been of the first in great Actions will, there can be no Doubt, lend your Assistance for the Execution of a Work so very interesting to your Country, and worthy of your noble Family.

If those People who either do not think so seriously of our State Affairs as their critical Situation requires, or have not a competent Knowledge of the Nature and Situation of Things, should judge my *Precaution* unnecessary, or my *Proposal* impracticable, I shall not be out of Humour with them, provided they will do me the Favour to judge only for themselves, without labouring to prejudice the Minds of other People against what they either do not,

or are not willing to comprehend themselves.

Thus, My Lord, from what I have been saying, it manifestly appears, that as Commerce is the *Fountain* of all Benefits, and the only *true* Resource of Advantages to a manufacturing and trading Nation, *Commercial Abilities* are of great Importance to this State; and consequently, deserving of the Attention and Encouragement of those *truly* Great Men, who are disinterested Friends and *true* Lovers of their *King* and *Country*. My View is to render *important* Service to my *Country*. If the Knowledge I have of an universal Trade, and the Means of making Commerce useful, should recommend me to the Notice of Your GRACE, I shall be happy in the Acquisition of so great a Patron, who has always regarded *Merit* more than *Men*.

I am,

MY LORD DUKE,

With all the Respect that becomes

Your GRACE's

Most Humble, and

Most devoted Servant,

LONDON,

March 10. 1767.

*An UNTAINTED Englishman.*

## P O S T S C R I P T

## To the DEDICATION.

AFTER the Press was set for the preceding Lines, I happened to be at the Printer's, and cast my Eye upon a Paper, intituled, *The Conduct of the East India Company in regard to their Wars*. But the Printer was so strictly enjoined to keep it a *Secret*, that I could neither obtain a Perusal of the whole, or any Part of it, more than an accidental Sight of a *few Words*.

I have since been told, that the Author intends to distribute the Pamphlet among certain People *only*, without letting it be published. What his Reasons are for *sliding* it into the World, after *this Method*, I will not pretend to say; but it gives room to doubt, either the *Authenticity* of the Matter, or the Aim, or *good End* of our Author. For, was that not the Case, why should a *Secret* be made about Business which the whole Nation has a Right to know? *All* being concerned either directly, or indirectly, in the Measures which are now *taking* relative to that *famous Monopoly*, commonly called, *The United Company of Merchants trading to the East Indies*. And as it is, at this Conjunction, not only the *principal* Subject of national Conversation,

but also the Business which the *Senate* is going upon *seriously* ; with an *Intent* (I hope) to determine *it* to the Satisfaction of *All*, without respect of Persons, more than as it may be conducive to the *general* Good ; I say, as *this* is in Agitation, whatever *that*, or any other Author has to advance relative to the Affairs of the East India Company, so far as they may concern the Public, should be communicated without Loss of Time. For, whatever is brought into the Nation *clandestinely*, may, without want of Charity, be supposed to be *counterband*. To remove this Suspicion (for I do not want to make a Property of the Trade of an *Informer*) let our Author publish his Pamphlet, that the Subject-Matter may be examined into *while there is Time*.

In the mean while, though I cannot form a clear Judgement of the Performance, so as to speak of it so pointedly as I could wish, yet, the Title gives good Reason for a Conjecture, that our Author means to *vindicate the Conduct of the Company in regard to their Wars*. To compass this, I suppose, he gives a Narrative of their *Proceedings* in War, and the *Motives* that induced them to *act*, either offensively against the Indians, or defensively against the French and their Designs.

Supposing this to be the *Foundation* of his Discourse, *viz.*

*The*



*The Motives* (either of Necessity or Interest, which of the two we will not consider here) *that occasioned their Wars; and the Methods of carrying it on.*

It may reasonably be concluded that our Author's Aim is, to shew, that from an Induction, or natural Incitement (*quite consistent* with the Nature and State of Things as well in regard to their own Situation and Existence as a Company of Merchants, embodied and authorized by Charter from the *Legislature* of Great Britain, as on account of the absolute Necessity there was, both for their own and Country's Sake, to frustrate the *alarming* Attempts of our ambitious and powerful Enemies) they were strongly, from such *laudable Motives*, induced to engage in a War, both honourable and advantageous in regard to the whole Community, of which they make *a part*; and lawful with respect to themselves; considered either in regard to their Relation to Great Britain, or the present Laws and prevailing Customs of other Nations.

If I am right in my *Supposition*, I have no doubt but the Author will succeed, in proving to the Satisfaction of all his Readers, that the East India Company, from such suitable and approved *Motives*, or Inducement, had an undoubted Right to such like *Proceedings*. Which, being once allowed, there will then be no room to question their  
Right

Right and *full Title* to the happy Effects arising from such Causes. Whence it will follow very naturally and clearly, that nobody can *justly* find Cause to condemn the Company for their Engagements in an extensive War; (which at great and *their own Expence*, has turned out very lucrative to them) nor, of consequence, *Reason* weighty enough (according to the Standard of Equity explained by our Constitution) to make their just Wars a *Plea* for the Demand of a considerable Sum of Money; to be paid by those Merchants to the Government. The only *Point* which, I suppose, this Gentleman has in *View*, and attempts, by his Vindication, to make appear to the *full Satisfaction* of the World: Wherein I wish him Success. For, though no Man can be more assiduous than myself, to contrive Means to serve the *distressed* Government, labouring under so many great and *pressing* Necessities, yet, I shall always oppose *undue* and *ill-adapted* Methods; which, for present and transitory Ease, may occasion lasting Pain.

If the Company had no Right to engage in a War (in which they have made such extensive Conquests) why were they not apprized of it from the *very Beginning*? When, by knowing that they were not to be allowed the *Fruits* of Labours, endured at their own Hazard and Charge, they might have saved themselves both the trouble and the vast expence. Had

Had the Company been *ruined* in the Pursuit after Enemies, who would have deprived them of their Property and their Trade too; Enemies that would have ruined *them*, as a Company of Individuals, and prejudiced the British Nation, very essentially in *many* Respects; But particularly, by the loss of their Treasure, and of their Trade to that Part of the Globe; *which* would have rendered our great *Rivals* and natural *Enemies* (the French) so very powerful as to *conquer England in the East Indies*. For, the Destruction of the British East India Company, and the great Acquisitions which the French would have made, (as the natural Consequence thereof) would have answered all the ambitious Purposes of the Galic Nation, and enabled them to do as they please: Which would certainly be the accomplishing of their *long-wished-for universal Monarchy*. To compass which, the first step of this Golden Ladder would be, to put the *Family Compact* into Execution to the full Extent of its ambitious meaning and pernicious tendency. Had the Company, I say again, been ruined by such *unrelenting Enemies*, would the British State have pitied them more than it does any other Merchants, who fail in their Attempts and become Bankrupts? Would the Government, in that Case, have had even the *Thought* of reproaching them

them for presuming to enter into an extensive War at their own Charge and Risque, for the defense of their own particular *Property*, and for the Honour and Advantage of their Country; by rendering abortive the Designs of the French and their numerous Friends, allied both by Blood and by the strong Ties of the *Family Compact*?

But, the contrary having happened, and their Expensive Wars proving very successful, it is now deemed a *fit Time* to call it an *unlawful* Proceeding; unjust in regard to the State whereof they are Members: And therefore, as the *former* is very opulent, and the *Latter* greatly *distressed* for want of Money, this *Doctrine* is made a *Plea* for making a most exorbitant Demand upon the Company: Though, every body knows that, the Success of the united Merchants has been a very considerable Advantage to this State; considered, both in regard to the vast Treasure which the Company's Riches must *necessarily* bring into Great Britain, and the happy Consequences arising from the *Superiority* gained over the French and other Rival Nations; which *latter* is a Consideration of very great Importance to this Nation.

Thus, by mere Conjecture concerning the Contents, I have taken some Notice of this Work; which has given me Occasion to deliver my Sentiments upon a *Point* which, though



though of a very interesting kind, must nevertheless be so clear, as to be *self-evident*, to every Person who has the Light of Reason, and any tolerable share of Understanding concerning the Nature of Things, and their Connection, viz.

That the Company having proceeded upon a right Principle of Action, (both as a Company of Merchants under a Charter, and as British Subjects) and being, of consequence, justly and solely entitled to the *effects* proceeding from such *right Causes*, the Government has no Title to make their Wars a *Plea* for demanding any *sum* of Money of them as the *right of the State*.

Thus far in Vindication of the Company, and in defence of my Author; whom it is now time to inform, and to remind the Officers of Government, that the *Issue of the Dispute* between the *State* and the *Company* ought not to rest upon the *obvious Truth* of what I have advanced in the preceding Lines: *That* part of the Business not being the *main Object*. For, though it is highly necessary this important Point should be argued and determined, *previous* to entering upon the real Object that should most engage the Attention of the Nation, both because the Sum demanded on that very account is considerable, and because the Reputation of the Company is attacked; yet the present *Question* (that so highly

highly concerns the Nation) is, whether it is fit, nay absolutely necessary, considered not in a particular, but in a general Light, *as conducive to the Safety, Tranquillity, and Happiness of the whole*, of which those very Individuals or particular Bodies of Men make a Part, and receive their Proportion of those common Benefits arising from the *Measure* to which they contribute; I say the great *Question* now is, whether those Trades which are now monopolized by Companies, (especially that to the East Indies) ought to become general on Account of its being made *more conducive* to the Interest both of *Subject* and *State*; as well as on Account of the Right which all have to the Advantages of Commerce, (upon which I lay a very great Stress) that is, open and free to all the Subjects of his Britannic Majesty? *Equally* indulging, encouraging and promoting the Happiness of All, that every Individual may have his *just* and *full* Share of the common Benefits, in such manner that no Particulars can have room left them to ground a *just* Cause of Complaint: Seeing that all Things are calculated merely for, and have a Tendency only to, the general Good.

This is the *grand Question* which ought to engage the *immediate* Attention of the Legislative Power, previous to any Accommodation of Differences between the Government

vernment and the East India Company of Merchants.

If the Advocates for the Government should not be satisfied with *this*, thinking my Proposal not so full of *immediate* Advantages, as to bring to the Revenue of the State a Sum *adequate* to one Million Sterling Yearly required of the East India Company as a *Tribute* (before unknown to Englishmen) let me satisfy these *most sanguine* Gentlemen (who think that a Bird in the Hand is worth two in a Bush) by adding to the *future Effects of such Happy Causes* the great Value of the Company's *Territorial* Property in the East Indies; which cannot be kept by them any longer, whenever the Trade to that Part of the Globe is laid open to the whole Nation.

These Things *together* will procure a vast Sum annually to be applied towards the Real Necessities of the State; and by this great *Increase* of Revenue, it will not only prevent the laying of *other* Taxes, but also enable an *honest Ministry* to take off those that are already laid and mortgaged, in due Proportion as Things become Ripe and Flourishing. The present Time is a very happy Conjunction for putting so great a Design in Execution, in Order that the State may reap the Fruits of it against another War; and be provided with suitable Means for carrying it on with that Life which is becoming the *Justice* of our Cause and the

Spirit of true Britons. But if it should be neglected, the Government will then be at great Loss to find Money for the great Necessities of the State in Case another War should happen; as well as have Difficulties to surmount, to give internal satisfaction to the Subject; who being more and more *burthened with Taxes* to procure *Supplies*, must necessarily become still more unhappy and make greater Complaints of a *distressed* Situation: The preventing of this and surmounting of other Obstacles, will take up as much Time as would be necessary for *Action*, was our situation put upon the happy footing which I propose. When Things are in a proper Train they are Executed both with greater facility and more probable Success.

*Great Britain* is noted for being *dilatory*, and of Consequence, unsuccessful at the Beginning of a War, which has often been imputed to the bad Conduct of Commanders, who have suffered for *Pusillanimity*; though the Effects were perhaps owing to other Causes: namely, The *Shifts* we were obliged to make, and the *time lost* in putting our National Affairs upon a tolerable Footing, to enable us to cope with Powerful and numerous Enemies; and *Rivals*, under the Cloak of sacred Friendship, more dangerous than *declared* Enemies. These are Truths, stubborn Facts which, perhaps, should not be discovered. I mention them not as a Reflection



lection upon the Times *past*, but to prevent them *in future*.—I have argued more than once about the Necessity of abolishing all Monopolies of Trade, how successfully a little Time will discover; as it is now universally thought, that the Business between the State and the East India Company will soon be determined.

In the mean time, it is recommended *most earnestly* to our *Representatives* that they may have a due Consideration of the great *Object* under their Eyes: in order that they may be able to discharge *faithfully* the Duty of their great Trust; adhering strictly to the Public Promises which they made at the time of Election, viz. *that they would faithfully and conscientiously represent their Constituents, by using their utmost Endeavours for the good of the whole Community*; or, what is more commonly called, their Country.

This important *Decision*, which depends entirely upon their Conduct, will prove to the world whether they were in *earnest* when they made such a profusion of Assurances. Their Attention to this great Object, *foregoing all personal Advantages*, will be the surest Means of strengthening the Confidence of their Constituents at the next general Election; which they can have no right to expect, if they should either neglect or trifle with Business of so much Concern to the whole Nation as that certainly is, *of laying open the Trade to the East Indies*, and taking  
from

from the Company, in consequence thereof, all their *territorial Possessions; or property of Land.* The *justice* of which, I have already shewn very fully; and which, I hope, will be approved of by *All*: Without thinking me inconsistent, by defending the Company in regard to their Wars, and their Right to the Consequences thereof, and immediately after to propose that they shall make a Sacrifice, or in other Words, that they shall give up to the Government, for the Advantage of the Nation (of which they themselves make a part) their *Acquisitions of Territory.* I have shewn the *Equity* of this Measure, which I shall again demonstrate.

Though I am for giving to *All* that which they *fairly* possess, or are as justly entitled to; and am jealous of every Thing which may be proposed, tending to an Infringement of our *Liberties* or Deprivation of our *Property*: yet I am not so very tender of particular Individuals as to defend the Right of a *few* to the prejudice of *many*; and more especially of the *whole*.

I mean by my *Doctrine* that no Precedent of Arbitrary Measures shall be established, to cause the destruction of the happiest Constitution in the Universe; consisting of the *best Laws*, though (Foreigners say) the *worst* executed of any in the World. Of which I myself know *some* Instances, but it is not my Business to enumerate them here.

Hence

Hence it is evident, that I am upon a right Principle in regard both to *Subject* and *State*; by proposing that every Individual shall, as it were with one common Consent, from the Necessity of the Case, *concur* in making all Things tend to the Happiness of the *whole*. It being a Truth which nobody can dispute, that *Private Benefit, or the Interest of Particulars, ought to give Place to the general Good*. Not rashly, but by Measures well adapted. This *Maxim* is founded upon the strictest Rectitude: And every rational Individual cannot but chearfully agree about promoting the general Good, from a Principle of Self-Love and Preservation; because private Interest, or the Happiness of particular Individuals, is comprehended in the general Advantage. Therefore, upon this just Principle, tending to the Preservation and Pleasure of the whole Community, I ask whether any Set of Men (who make a Part thereof, the East India Company in particular) can have any Objection to my Proposal? Can those Merchants who, by their Success, have received more than an *adequate* Consideration for their Trouble, their Expence, and the Purchase-Money for their Charter, hesitate about complying with a Request of this Sort? No. I will answer for them as true Britons, that they will chearfully acquiesce, and give up both *their Lands and their Charter* for the general Good. Taking in lieu thereof, that Share of all Benefits

sits which they will be entitled to, as Members of the same Community, in common with the rest of his Majesty's Subjects. A Concurrence truly spirited and patriotic; which will do them as much Honour, as it will do Service to their Country. But, if the Company should not chuse to concur *voluntarily*, it will then become quite necessary and just for the *Senate* to determine that it *shall be so*: Not because State Necessity requires it; but upon a more reasonable, constitutional, and *less alarming* Principle, because it doth manifestly appear to be conducive to no other Purpose or End than the *Safety, Peace and Prosperity* of every individual Subject of that *State*; not considered separately as Individuals, or particular Bodies of Men, but *altogether* in general.

If the Advocates for the East India Company of Merchants, from too great an Attachment to the Interest of Particulars, should be unwilling to be convinced of the Reasonableness of what I have proposed, let them *solve this Question*: Whether it is not more consistent with our common Notions of Equity, to deprive the *very rich* Company of their territorial Property in the East Indies, upon my Principle, than to oblige the industrious Artificer to contribute *more than he is able* towards exorbitant Taxes for the Necessities of the State? Taxes, which are ill-proportioned to the Success of their Trade, to the Wants of their Families, and



to their Circumstances or Abilities in general, for paying. Yet *Must* is the Word, and they obey *unrelenting* Officers; who are employed to raise the Money *by force* if nothing else will do.

Can the *very rich* Company refuse to pay *less* in Proportion to their Abilities, than the *poor, hard-labouring Artificer*? Fie upon them if they should! But the indigent-labouring-Man must submit to *rigorous* Measures, burthen some Taxes, even though they should bring Ruin upon them and their large Families; while the *Rich* are indulged in a Controversy, to oppose *that* which they ought to comply with, because the particular and greater Advantages which they receive enable them to afford it, *without Inconvenience to themselves*. Thus, as *Garth* judiciously observes:

Little Rogues submit to Fate,

That Great One's may enjoy themselves in State.

As a farther means of inducing the Company to give up their Possession of Land in the East Indies chearfully, I would have them consider that, though they may be justifiable for what they have done in regard to their Wars, yet it is not right that they should be *any longer* indulged and suffered to become so powerful as to occasion such a well-grounded Jealousy from the Nation itself, as would be dangerous to the Community. For their Power abroad, and Influence at home, would, in the course of Time

as they become more opulent and powerful, have such Weight upon *certain Occasions*, as is inconsistent with the good Policy of a State in regard to its Subjects; and therefore ought not to be suffered: Especially as the bold Conduct of certain Individuals renders a Jealousy and Circumspection of this Sort the more necessary.

Having now done with this interesting Business, I commit it to the Care of an *able* and *upright* Ministry; which I congratulate on having so fine an Opportunity for giving Proof of Abilities and Integrity to their Country, and of Affection and Attachment to the best of Princes. If they really value the Esteem and Confidence of the *latter* and the Affection and Applauses of the *former*, let them seize this extraordinary occasion. For, if either they or other Members of the Senate should regard this Proposal, only in order to *intimidate* the Company for the more effectually bringing about any Designs of obliging those Merchants to advance a considerable Sum of Money, to serve the Purposes of the State, without having regard to the Rights and Interest of the Subjects in general, they will then be entitled to that Indignation and Contempt, as well as eternal Disgrace, which is the just Recompence of bad Conduct. So it is hoped, both for their own and Country's Sake, that they will not abuse the great Confidence reposed in them by their *King* and *Country*.





THE  
NATURE  
OF A  
QUARANTINE.

THE Merchants trading to Italy, having *lately* been requested to attend at the Board of Trade, to give all the Lights they could in regard to the Nature of a Quarantine; and as there is Reason to imagine their Informations were neither so particular nor full as the Importance of the Object required; I think it a Duty highly incumbent on me, for the Sake of my Country (as nothing can be of greater temporal Concernment to Mankind than the Preservation of Health) to communicate the particular Knowledge thereof which

which I have acquired by a long Residence in *Italy*. For, though I have already given in my Opinion, in Writing, yet it may be of greater Service and more general Satisfaction, to inform the Public, as well as the Board of Trade, of the Nature of a Quarantine, and the Custom of erecting Edifices called Lazarettos, for the Purpose of a Quarantine, as it is performed in *Italy*, to guard against that dreadful contagious Distemper commonly called the Plague.

The natural and unavoidable Connection which Great Britain has with other commercial Countries, in such an extensive Manner as makes her more liable to that spreading and alarming Infection than perhaps any other European Nation, renders such an Establishment absolutely necessary.

*Quarantine* signifies the Number *Forty*; from the Space of forty Days, usually allotted for Vessels coming from the *Levant*, or any other Place, that is subject to the Contagion, to lay at Anchor, at a proper Distance, (as I shall hereafter mention more particularly) before they are admitted to *pratic*; that is, before any thing is suffered to be sent out of the Vessels on Shore; or any Being permitted to land and mix with other Things either animate or inanimate. *This* is denominated performing, or laying Quarantine; and is in other Countries most scrupulously observed, under very severe Restrictions.



strictions. To enforce a strict Observance,  
 there are proper Officers appointed to give  
 and to preserve the Laws or Rules of Qua-  
 rantine; and their Office is called the *Health*  
*Office*. Established to preserve the Health  
 of the Inhabitants from any infectious Dis-  
 order to which other Countries are subject;  
 but chiefly that most dangerous one, com-  
 monly called the Plague. The Health-  
 Office is most conveniently situated at the  
 Entrance of the Out-Works; and from the  
 Situation is called the *Bocca*, or Mouth;  
 where the Health Officers constantly at-  
 tend, and keep a good Look-out; taking  
 Cognizance of every Vessel that appears in  
 Sight, within the Jurisdiction of the Place;  
 and before they are suffered to approach to  
 the Harbor, the Officers of Health dispatch  
 away one of their Boats to enquire from  
 whence they come, &c. and the Master,  
 before he comes to an Anchor, is obliged  
 to put off his Boat, and go to the Health  
 Office to make a Report of his own Name,  
 and that of the Vessel; the Place come  
 from; the Cargo on Board; the Number of  
 Days on the Voyage; whether the Vessel  
 put into any Place, or suffered his own  
 Men to go on board any other Ship in the  
 Course of the Voyage; or shipped People  
 from other Vessels. In these Reports it is  
 usual to be very circumstantial; the Officers  
 being very particular and strict in their En-  
 quiries.

quiries. *False Reports* and *Impositions*, tending to endanger the State, are punished with Death, if they are discovered. And as these prudent Laws are known by the People trading to *Italy*, they are religiously observed. But, they are disobeyed in England, and the *Nation greatly endangered* with that alarming Disease, because proper Officers are not appointed to take upon them the great Charge, and put it into Execution, with all the Circumspection that is necessary. After the Report is made at the Health Office, and a Bill of Health produced, (which is a Certificate from the Place where the Vessel was cleared out) setting forth the Name of that Place, the Number of Hands, with their Names and Age, Colour of Hair, Size, and Complexion, and that they were all in good Health; if every thing is found to tally, and there has been no Mortality or Sickness on Board, or any Appearance or Suspicion of an Infection, the Vessel and Hands (if coming from a Place or Places excepted from Quarantine) are admitted to *pratic*; or in other Words, are set at Liberty without any Restriction whatever; and the Traders have Leave to take their Goods out of the Vessel at their Pleasure: and, in this case, the Certificate or Clearance brought by the Captain is called a *clean Bill of Health*. A *foul Bill of Health* is when the Vessel comes from any  
of

of the *Ottoman* Ports where the Contagion rages, or to which it may be communicated; and in such cases, if there are Grounds to suppose the Contagion on Board, the Vessel is sent to so great a Distance that they can have no Sort of Communication whatever with any Person or Thing (their own Vessel excepted) that can communicate or spread the Infection. They are kept at that great Distance a proper Number of Days, more or less according to the Nature of the suspected Case. If in that Time the Suspicion encreases by Disease or Symptoms of a dangerous Tendency, the Officers of Health are alarmed, and the Government dreading the Consequence of a Communication, either oblige the Vessel to get out of reach entirely (properly guarded at a Distance in order to make further Discovery concerning the Distemper) or, when the Case is desperate, Orders are given to destroy the Vessel and Crew; which, though it has the Appearance of Cruelty to the few, is yet an Act of Mercy to the many, for certainly it would be still more cruel to suffer a whole State to be infected and to endanger other Nations also, were a Communication permitted out of Compassion to few. This Case has happened, but it is rare. The length of Quarantine is as much *less* than forty Days as there is *less* Reason for Apprehension. The Distance of Places, and their

their Connection with each other are duly Considered, so as to enable the Officers of Health to form a proper Judgement of the Degree of Danger by a Comparison of Circumstances. For Example, though England and other Parts of the North are not suspected Places, on Account of their Remoteness and their being cold Climates, yet the Subjects of those Northern Countries and others coming from thence, who are in Friendship with the Barbary Powers, are made Subject to a short Quarantine, from this prudent and natural Conclusion, that as there is a Friendship, there may also be a Connection between them, that may communicate the Thing dreaded.

Vessels coming from the most Suspected Places are not suffered to be mixed with, or approach near to the other Shipping that are free from Quarantine, for Fear of ill Consequences proceeding from Indiscretion or Rashness; and therefore they are ordered, by the Officers of Health, to proceed immediately to a Place appointed for that Purpose *only*, at a convenient Distance from the Town, the better to guard against a Communication in Case of a Contagion: and that Place (which is properly guarded both by Situation and Officers) is called a *Lazzaretto*, in Allusion to the Diseases of Lazarus. All Letters and Papers belonging to Vessels in Quarantine, previous to their  
their



their being sent to their Destination, are opened at the Health Office, and smoked with Sulphur. And while the Shipping are performing Quarantine, within the Limits of the Lazaret, the Crew remain either on Board the Vessel, or have Apartments on Shore in the Lazaret, until the Time elapses; and in the mean while, the Bale-Goods, and those Things which are liable to gather the Contagion, are taken from on board the Vessel, and placed in a separate Part of the Lazaret, under the Care of proper and sufficient Officers, to be aired. So that the Vessel, the Hands, and the Merchandise, have their several Stations, with Officers to attend each. The Officers (or *Guards*, as they are called in Italy) for the Vessel, are put on board immediately upon Arrival, and lay the same Quarantine, of course, as the Vessel; taking proper care that nothing goes out of her during that Time; much after the Manner of our Custom-house Officers, but with greater *Fidelity*. Those who guard the People that have Apartments keep, with their long Halberts, a proper Distance between the Visiting People of the Country, and those who lay in Quarantine. And such as have the care of the Goods, keep a watchful Eye that nothing touches the said Merchandise, or comes within the Limits of the Quarantine; and if, by any Accident, any Person or Thing should touch any one

D

Thing

Thing, either animate or inanimate, in Quarantine, in that case the Thing *communicated* is thrown into the same Quarantine as the Thing *touched*, for fear of the Disorder having, by a simple Touch, communicated its dreadful Infection. In this they are extremely circumspect and strict, without any respect of Persons; well knowing the dangerous Consequences of the smallest Participation of the Plague, and that as it is, perhaps, the most apt of any Disorder to communicate its Venom and spread itself, and as it carries Destruction wherever it goes, they wisely think they cannot use too much Precaution. *And until the same good Rules are put into Execution in England, the good Purposes of a Quarantine will be abused.* Since, it is obvious to the most common Understanding that, if any Thing, either animate or inanimate, is suffered to be put on Shore, either by Permission, Connivance, or clandestinely, the *Intention* of the Quarantine is destroyed; for the *Quarantine* being nothing more than a Caution, to keep out the Plague, if that Caution is neglected, and the Disorder is suffered to be communicated, how then can it be guarded against? And how then can the fatal Consequences be avoided? And, in such case, what does it signify, or what good Purpose can it answer, to call a Thing a Quarantine that has nothing of the Nature of it? Or why are Rules

Rules and Laws made, if they are not intended to be strictly observed?

When the Time of *Quarantine* is near its Period, or Termination, and there arises no Appearance to cause them to suspect the Disorder, the Vessel is suffered to approach nearer to the Harbor, strictly guarded all the Time by the Officers on Board; and when the Time is quite elapsed, before they leave their Station, the Surgeon belonging to the Health-Office is ordered to visit and strictly examine the People, in the following Manner :

The People who have performed their Quarantine (that is, when they have laid out the Number of Days allotted them) are exposed privately to the Surgeon, naked. He feels under their Arms and on their Sides, in order to discover the Symptoms of the Contagion, if there should be any of it lurking about; but if there is found no Sore, swelling, or any other Appearance of the Disorder, after the Surgeon has made his Report, they are set at Liberty; or (as they term it in Italy) admitted to *Pratic*.

This is the Method of the Chirurgical Examination; but as there can be no room to apprehend any lurking Symptoms of the Contagion after a regular Quarantine is performed, so, out of Decency, they generally dispense with the greatest Part of the Examination which exposes the Nakedness of

People of Fashion; contenting themselves with feeling and striking the Parts where the Plague is supposed to discover itself.

I have resided a Number of Years in several Countries abroad, where the terrible and alarming Distemper is greatly dreaded; and where they wisely take every necessary Precaution to guard against it *in Time*. But I believe they have the best Notion of a Quarantine at Leghorn of any Part of Italy, or in any Country whatever. Pity it is that the same Precautions are not taken in England. To compass which, it is necessary to erect *Lazzarettos* in a proper Manner, according to the Italian Method. Which are to consist of spacious and convenient Buildings at the most fit Place for a Repository for such Merchandise as is subject to a Quarantine; to lay there in order to be thoroughly aired during the Time allotted for the Quarantine. And a proper Place *contiguous* should be appropriated for the sole Use of Vessels to lay at Anchor and perform a regular and strict Quarantine, according to the prudent Rules of the Italians.

For the due Observance of these Rules Care must be taken in the Choice of Officers to superintend, that they may do the Duty of their Office without any respect of Persons.

To make a Scheme of this Sort answer the desired End of a Quarantine, it would be



be well judged to send to Italy, a proper Person who is thoroughly acquainted with the Italian Language and Customs, in order that he may gather the best Information that is to be had, touching the Nature of a Quarantine. Setting forth the most convenient Method of erecting *Edifices*, and the Rules and Laws which are observed in the several Offices established for the Preservation of Health.

The Trip to Italy can be made in a very short Time, and at a small Expence; which indeed would not be worth mentioning when compared with the great Advantages that would result to the British Nation from an Establishment of a regular and well-governed Lazzaretto.

It is my Opinion that it would better answer the Purpose of the Nation to send a qualified Person, in the Manner here proposed, than to write to Italy; because, no epistolary Information can give so full and so clear an Idea of the Nature of Things as a capable Person appointed to collect that Intelligence, and be an Eye-Witness of every Thing requisite for carrying the Plan into Execution. And there will be this further Advantage gained by sending a proper Person to Italy. After he has made himself thorough Master of the Business sent upon, he will be able to assist in the Execution.

## P O S T S C R I P T.

IF the Monthly Reviews, or any other Writers who pretend to an *universal* Knowledge, and think themselves qualified to *guide* the Understanding of the Public, should continue to pass Sentence by the *Lump* upon my Productions, I shall not be angry with them for any little Liberties which they may take in judging *hastily* and concisely of the Matter treated of; from a generous Consideration that they may possibly obtain a comfortable Livelihood by the *Product* of their Criticisms; and that *Haste*, in canvassing so many Matters, may occasion an Error of Judgement. But, I should not be pleased if they were *again* to take so great a Latitude of Freedom as to denominate a Plan of mine which, it is self-evident, is calculated for the public Good, viz.

“ For a free and extended Trade, to encrease his Majesty’s Revenue, in order to take off the Taxes *gradually, and in due Proportion* as the National Debt, for which they are mortgaged, is provided for.” I say, it would not please me, if they should call a Plan of such *vast Utility* as this, which tends to the Happiness of All, the Scheme of a common Projector; and rank it among chimerical Productions. It being manifestly a great Injustice, tending to the Discouragement of those who have

have Talents, to speak of so *rational* a Scheme to the Public with unmerited Indifference.

If these People who take upon themselves the Character of public Censors, do not comprehend the Nature of Commerce so *perfectly* as to be sensible of the *Utility* of my Plan, it is not my Fault: nor any *Defect* in my Proposal if they are incapable of understanding *Trade* in so extensive a Light. But are themselves greatly culpable for taking upon them to judge of what they do not sufficiently comprehend. That which is not comprehended should, in their Character, be passed over in Silence, and left to more competent Judges: For, to misrepresent any Production, particularly such as highly concern the *whole* Nation, is both wrong and unjust in regard to the Author as a single Individual, but cruel and even dangerous with respect to the *whole* Community, who is greatly concerned in the Event. Yet it too frequently happens in this Country of *Freedom*; where the Liberty of the Press gives to *All* the Privilege of scribbling; and availing themselves of their common Right; *many* become *Censors* with as much *Infallibility* as the *Pope* himself. Passing *irrevocable* Sentence, which often stamps upon the Minds of the *Bulk* of the Public an Opinion different to that which they would conceive were they left to judge for themselves.

If

If the Motive of these Writers is to procure a Subsistence, it would be some Extenuation of their Offence. But, if their only Aim is, to render Service to their Country by their Abilities, they should give better Reasons why they condemn: Otherwise, it will appear to the *candid* Public, that the *hasty* Judgement which they too often pass upon the Labours of other People is *rash*; having no other View than to make themselves pass for Men of more Knowledge than they possess; or a malicious Tendency towards the Abilities of other Men.

If the *Liberty* of the Press could be put under certain Restrictions and Limitations, without destroying the *good* Intent of it, it would be a very happy Thing. But *that* is impracticable in such a *free* State as we boast ours to be: For a Restraint which might be *well meant* to prevent only the *Abuse* of Liberty, (by preventing what is by *some* deemed Abuse of Liberty or Licentiousness, and which might possibly be only a Misconstruction) would very probably *destroy* that which we understand by, or conceive to be, the *Liberty* of the Press itself; or, that Right which we have, by Inheritance, of delivering our Sense of Things with a becoming Freedom. Hence it is, as there are few Things which are calculated for the Good of the *whole* but what must (from the imperfect



imperfect State of all terrestrial Things) be inconvenient in some Shape or other, when considered in a particular Light, it becomes necessary to tolerate this *Evil* (if I may be allowed the Expression) upon that very Principle of bearing with *particular* Inconveniences for the *general* Good. And not, for the Sake of what may affect us in a particular Sense, run the risque of destroying that which may affect *All* so immediately as to destroy the very Nature of our Being as a *free* State. For *that* must inevitably happen whenever that which some People call the Abuse of the Press (from too great a Freedom of Language) is made a Pretence for taking away, and depriving the Subject of the Liberty of the Press. An Advantage, or more properly a Blessing peculiar to a *free* State; and which, when rightly used, is certainly a very valuable Jewel: *It* being the principal Means of guarding and preserving that very *Liberty* which gives a Nation the Title and Name of a *free* State.

This being the Case, nobody can dispute the Critic's equal Right, with the rest of the Community, to the Privilege of scribbling: It is, however, greatly to be wished, that in the Character of public Censors, they would content themselves with passing Sentence upon those Things only of which they may have a competent Knowledge; and even *on them* with a becoming Deference. It being  
E impossible

impossible either that they, or any other Set of Men, can *instantaneously* comprehend, in the full Meaning of Authors, every Subject that is treated of; some of which are the Fruit of many Years *Experience* and great *Application*, and are of so extensive and important a Nature, as not to be comprehended without *them*. Therefore, for the Monthly Reviewers to pretend to be better Judges from a mere cursory View of such Productions is highly ridiculous and presumptuous. And can only have Weight with such People who, for want of a Thought, do not see the Absurdity of their Presumption; which, to promote their own Purposes by the Sale of their Monthly Papers, is an Imposition upon the Public.

To say that I have argued with too much *Warmth* of Temper is a Misrepresentation. It being almost impossible to speak of the Complaints mentioned in the Pamphlets, intituled, "An Attempt to pay off the National Debt by laying open the Trade to the East Indies;" and the "*True Interest* of Great Britain in regard to the Trade and Government of Canada, Newfoundland, the Coast of Labrador, &c." without representing the public Grievances *feelingly*, and in the strongest Lights. It being an undisputed Truth that the *Effects* cannot cease until the *Causes* are removed; which cannot be brought about effectually until the *Evils* are pointed out in their true Colours. If

If the Critics have Compassion on those Persons whom I allude to as the Authors of the general Distress, either by being themselves the immediate Occasion thereof, or by not exercising their Authority in due Time to prevent the *Evils* complained of; and out of *Tenderness* to them they should think me too *warm*, I answer; that, as it would provoke a very Saint to see some State Officers *labouring hard* to promote their own particular Interest, and neglecting, at the same Time, their Country's Advantage, a Man would have a greater Share of *Patience* than is natural to any one Individual who has a *feeling* for his Country, and a *Love* for himself, to speak of these Things (which *stake* the Happiness of All) with Pusillanimity; or with that Coolness and Indifference which, I suppose, the Monthly Reviewers would insinuate.

7/105



BOOKS Printed for J. WILLIAMS, at  
No. 38. next the *Mitre Tavern, Fleet-  
Street.*

1. **T**HE true Interest of Great Britain, in regard to the Trade and Government of Canada, Newfoundland, and the Coast of Labrador: shewing the Absurdity of appointing military and naval Officers to govern a commercial People, and promote the Success of Trade which they are themselves entirely ignorant of. Price 1s 6d

It is hoped that the Legislature, and the Board of Trade in particular will give due Attention to this Pamphlet.

2. An Address to the Public, concerning the Business between the Government and the East India Company. Proving that the Government has no just Demand on the Company, either for Protection granted, or for territorial Acquisitions, 6d

3. A Letter to G. 7s

*His Majesty's Attorney at the Bar.*

4. The History of Prime Ministers and Favourites in England, from the Conquest down to the present Time: with Reflections on the fatal Consequences of their Misconduct, &c. 3s sewed.

5. The Rights of the British Colonies asserted and proved, by James Otis, Esq. 3d Edit. corrected. 2s

6. Historical Memoirs of the Irish Rebellion, in the Year 1641. Extracted from Parliamentary Journals, State-Acts, and the most eminent Protestant Historians. Together with an Appendix, containing several authentic Papers relating to this Rebellion, not referred to in these Memoirs. In a Letter to Walter Harris, Esq. 2s 6d sewed.

Very proper to be bound with the above Memoirs.

7. The Trial of the Roman Catholics of Ireland. By Henry Brooke, Esq. Author of *Fool of Quality*, &c. 1s 6d

8. The Conaught Wife, a Comedy of two Acts, 1s

9. The She Gallants, a Comedy of two Acts, 1s

10. Phillis at Court, a Comic Opera of three Acts, 1s

11. The Double Mistake, a Comedy, as it was acted at the Theatre-Royal, in Covent-Garden, 1s 6d

12. Love Alamode, a Comedy of three Acts, 1s

13. Low Life above Stairs, a Farce, 1s

14. Articles of the Game of Cricket, 6d

15. The Ghost, a Comedy of two Acts, 1s

\* All new Publications: a great Variety of the most esteemed Modern Books in the English Language: Also the best of all Kinds of Stationary Wares, viz. Paper Gilt and Plain, Quills and Pens, Superfine Dutch Wax, Bibles, Common-Prayer-Books, Testaments, Spelling-Books, &c. &c. may constantly be had at the same Place.